



News

From the Office of Mayor Gregory A. Ballard

City of Indianapolis

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Public Safety is still Job #1 in '09 *Overall, Violent Crime Down in '08*



The City has set high goals for 2009 as we continue to work to make Indianapolis a better and safer place to live, work and do business.

For many, a new year means new beginnings, a chance to start over and an opportunity to re-focus priorities.

For the City of Indianapolis, 2009 will also be a time for new beginnings, but our priorities have not changed. We are still focused on making Indianapolis a more livable city, and our top priority in that effort will always be public safety.

In 2008, our city witnessed a decrease in overall violent crime. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, as of August, rape is down nearly seven percent, robbery is down eight percent, aggravated assault is down two percent and vehicle theft is down 11 percent. Although the number of homicides increased from the

previous year, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) can report a homicide case clearance rate of 78 percent -- well above the 60 percent national average.

"I'm proud of all of our police officers who carry out their duties with honor and integrity," said Mayor Greg Ballard. "Their job is tough, but they rise to the challenge every day. They go above and beyond the call of duty because they care about the people and the community they serve. They are determined to make a difference."

We have set high goals for 2009 that will undoubtedly be difficult to meet, but we are confident and determined to do so.

Among these is a goal to lower the number of homicides

to under 100. We are taking great steps in the right direction.

This year, we will hire 38 civilian officers to answer phones and take reports on non-emergency crimes. This change will enable more officers to return to the streets to help keep our neighborhoods safe.

Also, IMPD will continue to focus on community policing. Our officers have seen a marked improvement in the willingness of civilians to offer information about crime in their area.

When civilians are willing to work with local law enforcement it increases our ability to turn crime ridden neighborhoods into safe, friendly, family oriented ones.

By the end of this year we plan to also have new technology in place that will boost our city's crime fighting efforts. Public Safety Director Scott Newman is currently looking at a system called ShotSpotter, which has the ability to detect gunfire and pinpoint its location. The system also includes cameras to view the locations and perpetrators.

"Gun crimes are a priority for this administration," said Newman.

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"ShotSpotter, which will be operational this year, will significantly cut down on gun violence in our city. This technology will be able to pinpoint a gunshot, identify the shooter, and ultimately lead to the prosecution of the individual(s)."

Additionally, IMPD is utilizing YouTube™ to post videos featuring unsolved crimes in hopes that it will prompt viewers to contact the police department with tips.

The idea is simple, and costs taxpayers nothing. Users can just enter the words "IndyUnsolved" into the YouTube™ search engine and a series of videos will appear.

We are also working to secure the longevity of crime fighting

programs already in place that have proven effective.

In January, we announced our recommendations for the distribution of 4.5 million dollars in crime prevention grants. The neighborhoods and nonprofits that were selected are already engaged in effective street-level crime fighting. They will use the grants to expand their proven programs.

Furthermore, we are continuing to focus on ex-offender re-entry. Each year, more than 5,000 ex-offenders are released from prison and return home to Marion County. A significant number eventually end up back in the correctional system.

To break this cycle and help ex-offenders transition into positive roles in our community, the

city continues to partner with local businesses to connect pre-qualified ex-offenders with employers and job opportunities.

In 2008, the city hosted the first-ever ex-offender job fair and held an employer symposium where local employers learned about potential community and business benefits that go along with hiring ex-offenders. At least 100 ex-offenders have been hired to-date as a result of the city's re-entry initiative.

This year, we will continue to seek out new and effective ways to fight crime while enhancing and utilizing the tools we already have available as we maintain our focus on making our city a better and safer place to live, work and do business. ●

Transparency and Accountability

2007-2008 Accountability Report for Indianapolis Mayor-Sponsored Charter Schools Now Available



Mayor Greg Ballard joined principals and board members from Indianapolis Mayor-Sponsored Charter Schools recently to release the 2007-2008 Accountability Report – a comprehensive document that serves as a key component of

the schools' rigorous and transparent accountability process.

The report, which is designed to provide the public and stakeholders with a comprehensive picture of the schools' strengths, challenges and overall achievement, includes data and performance measures for governance, financial reviews, expert site visits, confidential student and staff surveys and test score analysis.

"The release of this report is significant, because it underscores two of the main reasons charter schools overall are delivering academic success -- transparency and accountability," said Mayor Ballard. "The key for all Mayor-sponsored schools is continuous improvement. Even the best-performing schools have things they need to

do better, so while I am pleased with the overall performance, I will always challenge these schools to keep improving."

Performance measures included in the report indicate that 94 percent of Mayor-sponsored high school graduates enrolled in college.

In 2007, ISTEP pass rates were up by an average of 5.8 points from 2006. Based on state accountability indicators, three Mayor-Sponsored Charter Schools ranked among the top 10 schools in Marion County in improvement on ISTEP, and among the top 50 schools in the entire state. Eighty-seven percent of parents and 89 percent of staff reported overall satisfaction with the schools. ●

[Click Here](#) to view the report.

Accepting Applications for Mayor-Sponsored Charter Schools

Those interested in starting a charter school are invited to participate in the spring 2009 application round.

[Click here](#) for application packet instructions and other materials.

The first step is submission of a Letter of Intent followed by Prospectus submission.

The Prospectus deadline is noon on Friday, March 6.

Mayor-sponsored charter schools are secular, tuition-free public schools that are freed from many of the regulations governing traditional public schools.



The Mayor's Office currently oversees 17 charter schools in Indianapolis that serve approximately 5,300 students.

They control their own curriculum, staffing, organization and budget. In exchange for this freedom, they must meet high academic and organizational standards.

The Mayor's Office currently oversees 17 charter schools in

Indianapolis that serve approximately 5,300 students. ●

For more information on charter schools and specifically on the upcoming application round, call 317.327.3618.

Post-Holiday Recycling Event a Success



Indy Parks staff process old Christmas Trees into mulch.

For the third year in a row, residents took advantage of the Post-Holiday Recycling Event to recycle and properly dispose of holiday waste and un-

wanted electronics.

[SustainIndy](#), Indy Parks & Recreation, the Department of Public Works and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful hosted the event at four

city park locations on January 10.

"Recycling efforts like this really benefit our community," said Mayor Greg Ballard. "Not only does recycling help improve our quality of life here in Indianapolis, but taxpayers also save money from reuse options. The mulch generated from the Christmas trees will be used in city parks, trails and playgrounds."

Christmas trees, cardboard boxes, gift boxes and electronics were accepted at Broad Ripple, Ellenberger, Garfield and Krannert

Parks for four hours.

The Christmas trees are processed into mulch by Indy Parks Forestry staff. The electronics were separated by hand and then sold or sent to other organizations to be sold as commodities.

"This one-day event is designed to offer residents an environmentally safe way to discard unwanted electronics and to provide a reuse and recycling option for Christmas trees," said Kären Haley, Director of the Office of Sustainability.

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"By participating in this event, residents are doing their part to make Indianapolis a cleaner, more sustainable city."

Mayor Ballard launched SustainIndy and created the Office of Sustainability in October of 2008. SustainIndy is a bold and innovative enterprise aimed at delivering long-term cost savings to the city, building the local economy, improving our quality of life and enhancing our environmental and public health. Its efforts are designed to aggressively move Indianapolis forward in making it one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest.

For more information on the city's recycling programs, visit www.indy.gov. ●



Over 140,000 electronic items were dropped off at the event and approximately 15,000 trees have now been processed into rough grind materials.

Prevent Flooding and Ponding: Keep Storm Drains Clear

Winter weather in Indiana means snow, ice and rain. As a result, the [Department of Public Works](http://www.indy.gov/DepartmentofPublicWorks) is encouraging residents to keep storm drains clear of ice, snow, leaves and other debris to avoid serious drainage or flooding problems. Proper drainage prevents water from ponding on your street or driveway, which may turn to ice during cold weather.

Residents should:

- Keep storm drains clear of debris, trash and leaves.
- Make sure driveway culverts are free of debris, in good repair and set to proper elevations so water doesn't back up.
- Work with neighbors to clear brush, debris and other blockages from neighborhood creeks and ditches.
- Maintain swales and ditches by mowing to eight inches or less during the summer months and keeping them free of fill and debris.

Property owners are responsible for making sure drainage



Property owners are responsible for making sure drainage ditches, driveway pipes and drainage easements are free and clear of debris.

ditches, driveway pipes and drainage easements are free and clear of debris, weeds, high grass and other objects that will obstruct the flow of water.

Of the city's 10,000 miles of drainage facilities, about 6,000 exist on private property.

Ponding water most often occurs on private property and

may be the result of one or more factors.

The city will address ponding water on private property if it's a result of failed city infrastructure.

To report a problem, please call the Mayor's Action Center (MAC) at 327-4622. ●

MAC Improves Call Center Services



The [Mayor's Action Center](#) (MAC) provides the citizens of Indianapolis and Marion County with one central organization to contact for requesting service, obtaining information or registering complaints.

Citizens call to report stray and dead animals, potholes and abandoned vehicles. They also call when they have questions about their trash services or would like to request recycling services. These just a few of the many requests for services the MAC receives.

The MAC experienced an interesting 2008. As with any new management taking over services in an enterprise the size of the City of Indianapolis, an inventory of how services are provided and accurately measuring key performance indicators on

those services is a core business function.

The MAC was experiencing long wait times before calls were answered as well as a very high percentage of calls not getting answered; topping out at 40 percent of calls not being handled in July.

Mayor Greg Ballard called to action his executive team to determine whether or not the problems with the MAC could be fixed internally, or if the private sector could bring resources and capabilities to help.

A request for information (RFI) was issued so that vendors experienced in call center management could provide the city with information on local government call center best practices, business, funding and technology models, as well as staffing models to best support the number of calls that are received.

Concurrent to this activity, the Mayor charged MAC management staff with developing and implementing an operational improvement plan.

Input from the vendor community, neighborhoods, citizens

and other stakeholders coupled with significant operational improvements resulted in a decision to continue to have the MAC be staffed and managed in the city.

The Mayor also challenged MAC management and all staff to continually improve call center services to citizens.

Those improvements include:

- Providing closure on service requests by calling back citizens
- Hiring a Spanish speaking customer service representative
- Revamping how citizens report information
- Focusing on taking more calls instead of citizens being required to leave after hour voice mails or cumbersome e-mails because the phone wasn't getting answered.

In comparing the last quarter of 2007 to 2008, the MAC has truly improved services. Citizens experience very low wait times under 10 seconds, and nearly all calls are answered.

While 2008 had its challenges, 2009 will continue to see improvements in answering citizen's requests for services. ●

2007 Totals	Total Calls	Calls Handled	Abandoned Calls	% Calls Answered	% Calls Abandoned
Oct	18623	17558	1065	94%	6%
Nov	15852	15233	619	96%	4%
Dec	13771	13256	515	96%	4%
TOTALS	48246	46047	2199	96%	5%
2008 Totals	Total Calls	Calls Handled	Abandoned Calls	% Calls Answered	% Calls Abandoned
Oct	19851	19181	670	97%	3%
Nov	15345	15135	210	99%	1%
Dec	16810	16587	223	99%	1%
TOTALS	52006	50903	1103	98%	2%

As illustrated in the chart on the left, during the last quarter, the MAC handled, or answered, 4,856 more calls than in the same time period of 2007 and answered all but 2 percent of calls presented.

Latino Advisory Council Focuses on Public Safety and Economic Development



The Latino Advisory Council, created by Mayor Ballard by executive order on June 12, 2008, works diligently to implement the Mayor's overarching objective for the group — to significantly impact the role Latinos play in making Indianapolis a safer and more secure city. The Council encourages community members to work with the city's various programs, enhancing public safety and education levels and creating economic development opportunities for all city residents.

The Latino Advisory Council is an official city forum where issues important to the Latino community, such as public safety, small business development, and education are discussed and deliberated.

Mayor Greg Ballard created the Latino Advisory Council, by executive order on June 12, 2008, to ensure the Hispanic/Latino community is served.

This service includes encouraging community members to work with the city's various programs, enhancing public safety and education levels, and creating economic development and employment opportunities for all city residents.

The council is chaired by Carolin Requiz Smith, Director of the Mayor's Office of International and Cultural Affairs.

Under Smith's leadership, the council works diligently to implement the Mayor's over-

arching objective for the group — to significantly impact the role Latinos play in making Indianapolis a safer and more secure city.

To this end, the council is working to increase awareness of Latino public safety needs. One example of this, is the council's sponsorship of monthly public safety meetings in areas of the city with high concentrations of Latino residents.

The meetings are designed to give Latino community members a chance to directly discuss their safety concerns with members of the advisory council, IMPD and other local law enforcement agencies.

Public safety is the council's top priority, but they are also working to address other important community issues, such as providing important legal information to Latino entrepreneurs and addressing the city's Latino

student graduation rates (one recommendation includes utilizing "Latino mentors" to assist at-risk Latino teens).

The members of the Latino Advisory Council are: Carolin Requiz Smith, Director, Mayor's Office of International and Cultural Affairs; Charlie Garcia, Chairman, Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce; Angel Rivera, Consultants Consortium, Inc; Susan Sutton, Associate Vice Chancellor of International Affairs, IUPUI; Nelson Silva, Home School Advisor, Indianapolis Public School; John Broyles, BKR, Law firm; Scott Newman, Director of Public Safety, City of Indianapolis; Elia Irene James, Marion Superior Court Probation Department; Alfredo Lopez, MD, Alivio Clinic; Helen Marchal, Deputy Marion County Prosecutor. ●

For more information on the Latino Advisory Council please contact:

Carolin Requiz Smith, MS
Director of International
and Cultural Affairs

Office of the Mayor
2501 City-County Bldg.
200 East Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 327-7955
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Citizens Energy Group Renovates Brookside Park



Citizen's Energy Group donated about 1,600 hours of volunteer service for a company-funded renovation project that resulted in more than \$50,000 worth of improvements to Brookside Park Family Center on Indianapolis' Near Eastside.

In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, Citizens Energy Group employees in January donated about 1,600 hours of volunteer service for a company-funded renovation project that resulted in more than \$50,000 worth of improvements to Brookside Park Family Center on Indianapolis' Near-Eastside.

Citizens' service project Sharing the Dream 2009 represents a unique public-private partnership that will benefit Indy Parks & Recreation and the citizens who utilize Brookside Family Center for its services.

"Their theme, 'Sharing the Dream,' is most appropriate," said Indy Parks Director Stuart Lowry. "It celebrates the messages from Dr. King and connects the next generation to stewardship of our wonderful parks and facilities. Now more than ever we need our facilities to be ready to serve the community, and Citizens Gas is making

that dream a reality at Brookside."

Citizens provided contractors and volunteers to refinish the gym and stage floors, update emergency exits, replace fire detection systems, perform electrical, mechanical and plumbing work, remove old carpeting, and upgrade auditorium acoustic panels.

"At Citizens Energy Group, we know quality park facilities are a vital part of every great community. We believe this day of service is a great way to honor Dr. King's dream of building what he called the beloved community through a commitment to peace and reconciliation," said Carey Lykins, president & CEO of Citizens Energy Group. "This partnership with the Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation is a natural extension of Citizens Energy Group's ongoing commitment to neighborhood redevelopment and

enhancing the quality of life in our community."

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 14 Citizens volunteers prepared 10 rooms at the center for painting, trimming, and carpet installation that was completed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16, 2009, the official day of service.

About 400 Citizens employee volunteers were expected to participate during their regular working hours on Wednesday and Friday. On Monday, Jan. 19 Dr. Martin Luther King Day, Mr. Lykins and other dignitaries served refreshments to area residents at an open house at the center.

"Brookside will benefit greatly from Citizens Energy Group's amazing donation of materials, supplies, gymnasium upgrades, volunteer hours and auditorium improvements," said Director Lowry. "We are grateful to Citizens Energy Group for their commitment to Indy Parks and their tireless efforts to prepare for and complete this day of service." ●



Windsor Village Park Family Center Brings Community Together



Mayor Ballard, community leaders and Far-Eastside Residents help cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the 12,000-square-foot Windsor Village Park Family Center.

Several hundred people gathered on Saturday, Jan. 24, to cheer on the grand opening of Windsor Village Park Family Center on the City's Near-Eastside.

Mayor Gregory A. Ballard and Deputy Mayor Olgen Williams kicked off the celebration by leading a parade from the former one-room community center at the five-acre park to Indy Parks' new 12,000-square-foot facility at 6510 E. 25th St. Participating in the parade were the Rhodius Park Drum Line, Indy Parks' mascot Chippy the Chipmunk, Indiana Pacers mascot Boomer, City-County Councilors, Indy Parks Board members, Windsor Park families, and many other community residents and leaders. Following a dedication ceremony and ribbon-cutting, children and

young adults demonstrated various programs and activities offered at the center.

"Windsor Village is our newest jewel, offering an amazing array of resources from the gymnasium and fitness center to the computer lab and outdoor play areas," said Mayor Greg Ballard. "Windsor is the perfect complement to an already wide range of Indy Parks' community centers serving thousands of kids and families

throughout Marion County."

The support of many generous donors helped the Indianapolis Parks Foundation and Indy Parks secure \$2 million in public and private funding to bring the project to fruition, with the fundamental goal of empowering the Windsor Village community and instilling a legacy of hope for future generations. These partners include the Indianapolis Foundation, a Cen-

tral Indiana Community Foundation affiliate; the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust; Finish Line Youth Foundation; Indianapolis Power & Light Co.; Irwin Union Bank; and Safeco Insurance Foundation.

"Windsor helps us celebrate the strong community spirit and pride, and demonstrates how families and neighbors come together to overcome hurdles and harness hope for the future," said Indy Parks Director Stuart Lowry. "Indy Parks is proud of our role, and especially of the Indianapolis Parks Foundation's leadership role, in funding this needed center. We hope the future grows brighter in the Windsor community with our elevated involvement and support." ●



The Rhodius Park Drum Line sets the beat for a parade from the old building to the new.

City Continues Work on Vacant and Abandoned Homes



The goal of the Indy Land Bank is to get abandoned properties back on the tax roles by selling or deeding properties to qualified recipients.

An estimated 5 to 8 thousand vacant and abandoned homes exist in Indianapolis.

Even more formidable than the number is the fact that the city does not have much control over problem properties.

However, it is hoped that state lawmakers will be able to change laws that will give the city more tools make sure out-of-town landlords maintain their properties.

In the meantime, tackling the abandoned housing problem

requires resources from all city departments.

One tool now in action is the [Indy Land Bank](#). The goal of the Land Bank is to get abandoned properties back on the tax roles by selling or deeding properties to qualified recipients.

Through this effort the city of Indianapolis will return troubled properties to productive and economically viable use, eliminate public safety hot spots, and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

All properties purchased through Indy Land Bank are free and clear of all liens, delinquent taxes, housing code violations and any other encumbrances that would prohibit the sale, disposition, mortgaging or rehabilitation of the properties.

All properties eligible for sale through the Indy Land Bank have been insured by a certified title company. ●

Tax Sale Redemption Period Begins

On January 16th the 120 day tax sale redemption period began. This gives property owners a chance to redeem their property by paying back taxes plus fees.

Once this period is over, the treasure's office will petition the courts to issue a tax sale deed to the city.

This will take about a month and the city will have access after the courts have issued the deed. An estimated 400 properties could be obtained.

More info is available at www.indylandbank.com

Success Story

Marlena McDougall is a lifetime resident of Saint Peter Street. Growing up on Saint Peter, she shared many fond memories that can not be recaptured. But due to a house fire, her parents were forced to tear the house down and they converted the garage into their new home.

Due to financial hardships, her father was forced to sell the family house. Now, she currently resides on Saint Peter, right next door to her childhood home. When she realized the owner of her childhood house had abandoned that property and the city acquired it, she jumped at the opportunity to own a piece of her family history. Through the Abutting Land Owners Program, she was able to successfully acquire that lot.

For \$2000, she purchased the house and has plans to turn it into a wood shop for her husband. This will keep the property in the family and preserve a piece of history. ●

Partnership Results In Major Road Improvements



In 2008, the city collaborated with Eli Lilly utilizing their Lean Six Sigma Black Belts to assist in refining our pothole response methodology to allow customers much better service than previously offered.

After meeting with several neighborhoods and residents throughout the Indianapolis community, Mayor Greg Ballard found that the city's pothole response was one of customers' top concerns. Confident that public/private partnerships are

key to improving government services, the Mayor authorized the partnership that resulted in the Chuckhole Kaizen Response, a much more efficient process that allows better planning, scheduling, routing and customer reporting.

"I spent all of last year talking to neighborhood groups, business leaders and others about what we could do to improve our city," said Mayor Ballard. "I realized then that we needed to partner with people outside of government if we are truly going to make this city as great as it can be."

Several unnecessary steps have been eliminated from the old process, which proved extremely inefficient as it allowed several days before complaints were finally received by district garages for scheduling, routing and repair.

In addition, the old mechanism did not allow customers to report details including: specific pothole location, specific customer contact information and

other important data that assist in better planning and routing.

This proved inefficient as work crews were sometimes sent to inaccurate locations, duplicate reporting resulted and other problems ensued.

This resulted in waste of taxpayer dollars in regard to resource, staffing and time management and material and fuel usage.

The goal of the Chuckhole Kaizen Response is to address pothole requests within a 48-hour cycle time.

Currently, two of three districts are within the two-day turnaround period and the 3rd is within a four-day turnaround. This is a major improvement from the previous 19-day turnaround customers experienced in the past.

Potholes are now being addressed from a two-tier aspect, including preventative maintenance through crack-sealing and better repair practices.

Budgeting \$1.4 million in crack-sealing work, which has not been done in the last five years, DPW purchased four new crack-sealing machines and have been working to address road surface cracks throughout the City/County area.

Better patching materials are now being used – hot mix rather than cold mix – to allow better, more permanent repairs.

Working more proactively, DPW now targets geographic areas patching every pothole within an area with a permanent repair of hot mix rather than waiting to receive a request from customers before reacting.

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The images on the left highlight DPW's old "Throw & Go Method" vs. the new "Mat Patching Method"



The new method is much more permanent, and allows for a much smoother ride in repaired areas.

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A certain amount of pothole work will always be reactionary. Considering this, smaller designated "rapid response" teams were established to better address potholes that may cause an immediate hazard to vehicle and public safety. Emergency re-

sponse teams are able to address more serious potholes in less than 24-hours. ●

(Because pothole crews and winter weather crews encompass the same staff, cycle times may fluctuate as street maintenance teams switch gears to address either of the two issues.)

**To report a pothole
please call the
Mayor's Action Center
at 327-4MAC (4622)**



Doug Rae, pictured above with Simba, a black lab he rescued in 2001, is the new Administrator of Indianapolis Animal Care and Control.

IACC Has New Administrator

The new Administrator of Indianapolis Animal Care and Control has taken over reigns at the city shelter.

Doug Rae has a wealth of knowledge in animal welfare and public safety most recently having been the Chief Operating Officer at Philadelphia's Animal Care and Control where 30,000 intakes are handled annually.

Rae has also led the Humane Society in Harford County, MD as well as Animal Care and Control in Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ.

Rae was unanimously cho-

sen by the Indianapolis Animal Care and Control Board after a lengthy interview process and a nationwide search.

"Indianapolis is a first rate city with kind and caring people and they deserve an animal shelter that reflects that," said Rae. "Not only will we provide first rate service to protect public health and public safety, and not only will we save the lives of thousands of animals, but we will become a model of compassionate care for the rest of the nation to follow." ●

2009 Great Indy Cleanup

It may still be winter, but The Great Indy Cleanup is just around the corner!

The Cleanup is a national effort founded by Keep America Beautiful, Inc., involving over 200 communities and more than 2 million volunteers annually, and is the largest litter cleanup program in Indianapolis.

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful Inc., The City of Indianapolis, the Department of Public Works, Republic Services and the Southside Landfill are partnering for this year's local program.

The Cleanup runs every weekend from April 4th through October 31, 2009. If you are interested in learning more please visit http://www.kibi.org/programs/litter_cleanup/gic/index.htm ●



IPL Mayor's Lunch for Parks

Mayor Greg Ballard will be the keynote speaker at the seventh annual IPL Mayor's Lunch for Parks on March 5.

Mayor Ballard will highlight the important role of parks in our community and how park programs can benefit children and families by providing programs and services that help improve public safety, education, and quality of life issues facing many neighborhoods.

Nearly 400 corporate and community leaders are expected to attend the event. Proceeds from the event will be used to support the work of the Indianapolis Parks Foundation in the areas of greenway trail development, land acquisition, capital improvements, and youth, family and older adult programs.

Since 2003, the IPL Mayor's Lunch for Parks has raised nearly \$800,000 in private sector funding. These contributions have been used to complete projects such as renovating Willard

Park, building a new family center at Windsor Village Park, purchasing and installing a new pedestrian bridge at Juan Solomon Park, adding nearly 200 acres of land to build new parks and program support, and building an endowment for future maintenance needs.

This event demonstrates the strength and importance of the partnership between Indy Parks and the Indianapolis Parks Foundation. Mayor Ballard's involvement and leadership helps communicate the message to the private sector that parks and green space are a great asset in our community, contributing to crime reduction, economic and workforce development and improving the quality of life for all residents in Indianapolis.

For more information on the IPL Mayor's Lunch for Parks and the Indianapolis Parks Foundation, visit: www.indyparksfoundation.org •



Change Challenge

An extension of Mayor Ballard's "Pack the Pantries" Citywide Food Initiative, members of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department's Traffic Division extended a "Change Challenge" to the Mayor's office to raise money for the cause.

A total of \$720 in loose change was collected as part of the challenge and will be donated to Gleaner's Food Bank. Pictured here, IMPD traffic personnel present Mayor Ballard with the collected donation. The traffic division won the Change Challenge by collecting over \$600 during their daily roll call meetings. •

Mayor's Night Out Center Township (Downtown/East) February 24



Citizens are proud of their city, but they live in their neighborhoods.

On February 24, Mayor Greg Ballard and city department directors will be available for a question and answer session with Center Township (Downtown/East) residents.

Residents are encouraged to come out to ask questions and share their opinions and concerns.

The question and answer forum will be held from 6–7 p.m. at a location to be determined.

For more information, please contact Tonya Beeler, Mayor's Neighborhood Liaison, at tbeeler@indygov.org or visit www.indy.gov •

4TH ANNUAL Black Pearls Exhibit

On **Feb. 6**, Indy Parks & Recreation's Garfield Park Arts Center will host a reception for the 4th Annual Black Pearls exhibit from 6–9 p.m.

Black Pearls began in 2005 to honor Black History month and to showcase work from Indianapolis' African-American and minority artists.

Black Pearls is on view from Feb. 7 – 28, Tuesday through Friday from 1-6 p.m., Saturday 10-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m.

The GPAC is located at 2432 Conservatory Drive in the heart of Garfield Park.

♥ Valentine's Day at the Conservatory ♥

Sweets for Your Sweetie

Looking for a unique way to celebrate Valentine's Day?

Come to the Garfield Park Conservatory and enjoy *Sweets for Your Sweetie!* Stroll through the candlelight and sample tasty treats from rainforest plants – including chocolate, coffee and vanilla.

Learn about how these foods are made and the benefits of

organic and fairly traded products. From well-loved favorites to more daring flavors, taste buds will enjoy this journey through the tropics.

This event will take place on Saturday, February 14 from 7-10PM. The cost is \$8 per person. Couples, friends, families, and singles are all welcome; however guests must be over 16 years-old. Pre-registration re-

quired for this event, as there are a limited number of spaces. Call (317) 327-7580 for more information or to register.

Garfield Park Conservatory is located on the near southeast side of Indianapolis at 2505 Conservatory Drive on the 2400 block of South Shelby Street. For information this or other Conservatory events, call (317) 327-7580 or visit www.indyparks.org.



Junior Basketball Program 50th Anniversary Open House

On February 21, Municipal Gardens will host the 50th Anniversary Open House for the Junior Basketball program. The Open house will take place from 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. For more information, call 327-7186.

1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

3 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

3:45 p.m.

Light refreshments meet and greet, visit memorabilia displays

Slide show & History of Gardens Jr. ball

Remarks from past Gardens staff, coaches and players

Address by Columbus Byers, Jr. Basketball President

Calendar of Events/Meetings • February 2009

This calendar represents a general compilation of community events/meetings. To learn more about meetings in your specific neighborhood, please visit www.indy.gov/neighborhoods to find contact information for your neighborhood liaison.

Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please check with your neighborhood liaison to verify meeting details.

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Irvington Terrace Crime Watch

6040 E. Pleasant Run Parkway South Drive.; 7 p.m.

Garfield South Neighborhood Assoc.

Shelby St. Branch Library; 2502 Shelby St. 6:30 p.m.

NESCO Community Policing Committee

57 N Rural St.; 5:30 p.m.

Ravenswood Neighborhood Assoc.

1788 Haynes; 7 p.m.

Friends and Neighbors Block Club

2815 Sutherland; 6:30 p.m.

Old Northside

Propylaeum; 1410 N Delaware St.; 7 p.m.

Herron-Morton Place

1516 N Delaware; 7 p.m.

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Eastside Rotary Club

(Also meets 2/10, 2/17, 2/24)

Golden Corral; 10220 E. Washington St. Noon

Kiwanis Club

(also meets 2/10, 2/17, 2/24)

975 E. Post Rd.

Noon (4th Tuesday @ 6 p.m.)

Brendonridge HOA Annual Mtg.

Christian Faith Center; 5601 E. 56th St. 6:30 p.m.

Devington Community Assoc.

St. Albans Church; 4601 N. Emerson 6:30 p.m.

4

IMPD NW Task Force Mtg.

IMPD NW District HQ; 3821 Industrial Blvd.; 6 p.m.

Irish Hill Neighborhood Assoc.

Progress House; 201 S. Shelby; 6:30 p.m.

Greater Citizen's Coalition of

Martindale-Brightwood

Douglass Family Center; 1616 E. 25th St. 6 p.m.

5

Sertoma Club

(also meets 2/15, 2/19, 2/26)

Ramada Inn; 7701 E. 42nd St.; Noon

IMPD North District Task Force

42nd & College Library; 3 p.m.

Eagledale Neighborhood Assoc.

AmVets Post 99; 2802 Lafayette Rd. 6 p.m.

Lincolnwood Neighborhood Assoc.

Clermont Town Hall; 9049 Crawfordsville Rd.; 7 p.m.

Fountain Square South

IPS School 20; 1849 Pleasant Run Pkwy S. Dr.; 7 p.m.

Brookside Neighborhood Assoc.

School 54; 6:30 p.m.

IMPD NW Task Force

District Community Room; 3 p.m.

Nora Community Council

Nora Library; 8625 Guildford; 7 p.m.

Coalition of Northeast Neighborhoods - Weed and Seed

38th St. Library; 5420 E. 38th St.; 6 p.m.

6

Mid North Public Safety

42nd College Branch Library; 10 a.m.

Black Pearls Exhibit

Garfield Park Conservatory 6-9 p.m.

9

Franklin Twp. Civic League Bd.

8822 Southeastern Ave.; 6:30 p.m.

St. Clair Place Neighborhood

2327 E 10th St.; 6:30 p.m.

Butler Tarkington Neighborhood Assoc.

MLK Multi Svc. Ctr.; 40 W 40th St.; 7 p.m.

Brightwood Concerned Citizens

Brightwood Library; 2435 N. Sherman Dr. 6:15 p.m.

Unity Park Resident's Council

Seven Star Church; 2339 N. New Jersey St. 6 p.m.

Bruce's Place

601 E. 17th St.; 7 p.m.

10

38th St. Group

Holiday Inn; 6990 E. 21st; 7:30 a.m.

CAFÉ/ENACT

CAFÉ Bldg; 8902 E. 38th St.; 6 p.m.

Community Heights

Baptist Church; 6410 S. Arlington; 7 p.m.

Far-Eastside Neighborhood Assoc.

975 E. Post Rd.; 7 p.m.

Goodwin Center Community Advisory

3935 W. Mooreseville Rd.; 1:00 p.m.

Greater Allisonville Community Council

Epworth UMC; 6450 Allisonville Rd. 7 p.m.

Hawthorne Neighborhood Assoc.

Hawthorne Center; 2440 W. Ohio

7 p.m.

ELSA Weed & Seed Steering Committee

(Also meets 2/19 at 6:30 p.m.)

Eagledale Public Library; 3325 Lowry Rd.

6 p.m.

Franklin Twp. Chamber of Commerce

La Quinta Inn; 465 & Emerson; 11:30 a.m.

South Village Neighborhood Assoc.

59 E Pleasant Run Pkwy., S. Dr.; 7 p.m.

Old National Road Business Assoc.

Horner Electric; 1521 E. Washington St. 9 a.m.

11

Eastside Business Assoc.

10800 E. Washington St.; 2 p.m.

BRAG Mtg. (Binford Redevelopment and Growth)

Skiles Test Elem. School; 7001 Johnson Rd. 7 p.m.

Pike Twp. Residents Assoc. (PTRA) (zoning petitions)

Pike Twp Govt Center; 5665 Lafayette Rd. 7 p.m.

Mid-North Weed and Seed

Tabernacle Presbyterian; 418 E. 34th St. 9:30 a.m.

12

Flamingo E & W Drives

First Trinity Lutheran Church; 5321 E. 42nd St.

Speedway Merchants Assoc.

Speedway Library; 5500 W. 25th St. 5:45 p.m.

IMPD SE Task Force

IMPD SE District; 1150 S Shelby St.

Southeast Community Organization

IPS school # 39, 1733 Spann Ave.; 6 p.m.

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Calendar of Events/Meetings • February 2009

This calendar represents a general compilation of community events/meetings. To learn more about meetings in your specific neighborhood, please visit www.indy.gov/neighborhoods to find contact information for your neighborhood liaison.

Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please check with your neighborhood liaison to verify meeting details.

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Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Assoc.
Bethlehem Lutheran Church; 526 E. 52nd
6:30 p.m.

Martindale-Brightwood Neighborhood Assoc.
Brightwood Library; 2435 N. Sherman Dr.
6 p.m.

13

Holiday Civic League
Abundant Faith Church; 79th & Ditch Rd.
7 p.m.

14

Sweets for your Sweetie Event
Garfield Pk. Conservatory;
2505 Conservatory Dr. ; 7–10 p.m.

16

Southport Town Board
Southport Park; 6950 Derbyshire Rd.
7 p.m.

Southdale Civic League
Center UM Church; 5545 Bluff Rd.; 7 p.m.

Hill Valley Homeowners Assoc.
St Barnabas Church; 8300 Rahke Rd.
7 p.m.

Garfield Neighbors
Shelby St. Branch Library; 2502 Shelby St.
6:30 p.m.

Friends & FACT
IMPD SE District; 1150 S Shelby St.
7:30 p.m.

Health by Design Coalition Meeting
1912 N Meridian St.; 2:30 p.m.

Michigan Road Rivera Assoc.
Sycamore School; 6:30 p.m.

Kennedy-King Park Advisory Council
Kennedy-King Park Bldg; 601 E. 17th St.
6 p.m.

17

Historic Irvington Community Council
55 S. Johnson Ave.; 7 p.m.

Weed & Seed/WESCO

Haughville Library; 2121 W. Michigan St.
5:30 p.m.

FTCC Alive at Five

Moorehouse Collision; 8620 Southeastern
Ave.; 5 p.m.

Norwood Neighborhood Assoc.
Pride Community Ctr.; 1129 Vandeman
6:30 p.m.

Broad Ripple Village Neighborhood Assoc.
Indy Arts Center; 7 p.m.

18

40 WEST
Ben Davis H.S.; 1200 N. High School Rd.
11:30 a.m.

19

Cumberland Estates
Warren Library; 9701 21st. St.; 6:30 p.m.

Southwest Task Force
Southwest H.Q.; 551 N. King Ave.; 2 p.m.

FTCC Economic Development Comm.
NBO Restaurant; 8844 Southeastern Ave.
7:30 a.m.

Windsor Park Neighborhood Assoc.
1801 Nowland Ave.; 6 p.m.

Keystone Business & Community Assoc.
Administration Bldg. State Fair Grounds
7:30 a.m.

CDD Crime Watch
42nd College Branch Library; 6:30 p.m.

Reagan Park Community Action Group
Solid Rock Church; 2357 Carrollton
3 p.m.

21

Junior Basketball Club 50th Anniversary
Municipal Gardens; 1 –3:45 p.m.

23

WE Care Neighborhood Assoc.
Steelworkers Union Hall; 218 S. Addison
6:30 p.m.

Decatur Civic Council
Decatur Middle School; 5108 S. High
School; 7 p.m.

24

Mayor's Night Out—Center Township (Downtown/East)
Q&A 6-7 p.m.; Location TBD

BRAG Working Group Mtg.
Divine Savior Lutheran Church; 7315 E.
75th St. ; 5:30 p.m.

Near West Business Assoc.
Hawthorne Annex; 211 N. Mount St.
6:30 p.m.

Lafayette Square Area Coalition Mtg.
Westview Health Plex ; 3660 Guion Rd.
5:15 p.m.

Homecroft Town Board
Perry Twp. Gov. Ctr.; Thompson Rd. &
Madison; 7 p.m.

FarHill Downs Neighborhood Assoc.
IFD 54; 8505 Combs Rd.; 7 p.m.

Germania Creek Neighborhood Assoc.
Shelby St. Branch Library; 2502 Shelby St.
6 p.m.

Chatham Arch Neighborhood
748 Mass Ave. ; 7 p.m.

25

George Washington Com. Advisory Mtg.
George Washington H.S.;
2215 W. Wash. St.; 10 a.m.

ELSA Weed & Seed – Seed Mtg.
Covenant Baptist Church; 4201 W. 30th St.
6 p.m.

Greater Southport Business Assoc.
Southport Park; 6950 Derbyshire Rd.
7 p.m.

26

West Eastwood Neighborhood Org.
7721 Cullen Rd.; 7 p.m.

BRAG Pedestrian Access Mtg.
George's Neighborhood Grill; 6935 Lake
Plaza ; 5:30 p.m.

Southside Concerned Residents
Bethel Park Community Ctr.--2850
6:30 p.m.

27

West Side Neighborhood Assoc.
Municipal Gardens; 1801 Lafayette Rd.
6:30 p.m.